



wisconsin department of  
**children & families**

1555 North Rivercenter Dr., Suite 220

Milwaukee, WI 53212

Governor Scott Walker  
Secretary Eloise Anderson

Division of Safety and Permanence  
*Bureau of Milwaukee Child Welfare*

**Adoptions & Out of Home Care Committee of the BMCW  
Partnership Council**

**July 17, 2013**

**Vel R. Phillips Juvenile Justice Center.  
Milwaukee Children's Court  
10201 Watertown Plank Rd  
Room 1260  
Wauwatosa, WI 53226  
3:30-5 p.m.**

**AGENDA**

**I. Call to Order**

**a. Attendance**

- i. Colleen Ellingson
- ii. Judge Joe Donald
- iii. Sara Koeferl
- iv. Maria McDermot
- v. Allison McMorro
- vi. Phillip Zellmer

**II. Open Meeting Information**

**a. Direction of the committee**

- i. Colleen indicated that at the next partnership council there is a possibility that they will encourage all council members to participate in one of the three current subcommittees (Adoptions & OHC, Health and Education, Critical Incident).
- ii. Colleen met with Linda Davis and Arlene Happach to outline possible areas of focus for this sub-committee
  1. Placement Stability
  2. Youth in care to 21 (with IEP
  3. Time to TPR and adoption

The following is the discussion that occurred on each of the proposed areas of focus.

**iii. Placement and Stability**

1. This is the only remaining enforceable section from the Lawsuit
2. Colleen's suggested areas to research
  - a. How are the surrounding states doing in terms of their placement stability
  - b. What other models are out there for supporting foster parents?

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- c. Taking a deeper look into the disruption rate including the following
      - i. Demographics of providers
      - ii. Types of placements and their disruption rates
      - iii. Look at each of the cases individually from Court and Agency perspective.
  - 3. CSSW Pilot Program
    - a. Maria reported that a full scale implementation of a Family Support model was started on May of 2012
    - b. Placement Stability is tracked on a weekly basis as opposed to monthly
    - c. Family support specialists are assigned to work with placements experiencing instability.
    - d. Current target is children 12 and under in their first placement.
    - e. Not currently tracking re-entry after permanency achieved
      - i. Adoption/TOG disruption
        - 1. This area is not formally being tracked at this time
        - 2. What are the factors that may be attributed to future disruptions?
          - a. Age
          - b. Race
          - c. Adoptive/TOG providers
    - f. Committee would like more information on CSSW initiative and any data supporting it.
    - g. Maria indicates that there has not been any quantitative data obtained from the process thus far.
    - h. Some suggestions were made as to what quantitative data could be gathered and how.
    - i. Follow up with FP after disruptions
      - i. Cases are staffed
      - ii. Additional supports are offered to the foster parent
  - iv. Youth in care to 21 (with IEP)
    - 1. Colleen suggested information that will need to be obtained
      - a. Colleen indicated that she spoke with Arlene who indicated that there is a population of youth (age 18-21) in placement on an IEP.
        - i. Phillip will follow up to provide BMCW statistics
      - b. What services are available or provided to these youth?
      - c. Where do these youth go when they are not attending school (what is their forever home)?
        - i. Teens who age out of the system and go to college are often homeless during semester or summer breaks.
      - d. Placements for youth (18-21) in foster care are very difficult to locate.
    - 2. Judge Donald indicates that he often sees youth that fit this category involved in the court system for criminal matters

3. Alison indicates that the FL model is somewhat different from the current WI model
  - a. FL provides \$1200/mo support to youth seeking further education after foster care
  - b. Room and board may be provided for youth in school
4. There is an Independent Living work group currently working with the BMCW to identify services and supports for youth in and leaving foster care.
  - a. Lad Lake has recently opened independent living apartments for teens, Mary Kennedy at BMCW ( 414-220-7035) is the contact person for this program.
5. Judge Donald inquired as to whether there is a possible change in the orders or legislature to facilitate extending CHIPS orders.
- v. Time to TPR and Adoption
  1. Phillip suggests an alteration to the focus to encompass ASFA compliance in with this topic
    - a. BMCW and PRES completed a review in May of all of the children that were non-compliant for ASFA during the first quarter.
      - i. During the first three months of the year 21 children were determined to be non-compliant with ASFA
      - ii. In a review of the reasons for non-compliance 16 children were found to be non-compliant due to the referral for a TPR.
      - iii. If all of the TPR referral issues had been cleared up the BMCW would have reached a 96% compliance (131/136) for ASFA.
    - b. BMCW/PRES review process
      - i. BMCW submits a pre-review to the agencies on the 10<sup>th</sup> of each month and provides them an opportunity to clean up any children that might not be ASFA compliant.
      - ii. BMCW and PRES complete a final review of ASFA around the 17<sup>th</sup> of each month
      - iii. The agencies receive a list of all of the children that have been in care between 12 and 13 months around the 14<sup>th</sup> so that they can know who to focus on in the next two months so that the children can be ASFA compliant.
        1. Sara requests that the DA's office receive a copy of the 12 month review so that they know who to focus on as well.
    - c. Colleen inquires about the TPR suspended list.
      - i. Phillip indicated that the TPR suspended list is not an accurate depiction of the number of children with both pending and suspended TPRs.
      - ii. There are a number of children on the suspended list that are no longer in care.

- iii. There is not always good communication between the agencies and the DA's office about keeping the list current.
      - iv. Most often the children are on the suspended list because when the TPR referral is submitted they do not have an adoptive resource identified
    - d. The committee inquired about the status of family findings
      - i. Maria indicates that the Casey grant has ended but that the agency continues to do family finding with specific target populations
        - 1. Children and youth who first come into care receive family finding services
        - 2. Children and youth who languish in the system receive family finding services.
      - ii. Family findings is now rolled into the Permanency Consultation as a coaching model for the family case managers.
    - vi. Committee Suggested Action Steps
      - 1. The committee agrees that the areas of focus should be done in numeric order.
      - 2. Colleen will enhance the original information that was pulled together for the committee and then send it to Phillip to add any additional data points that can be added.
      - 3. The resulting document then will be presented at the next Partnership Council meeting (7/26/2013 12:00 PM)
      - 4. Colleen indicated that she would not attend due to prior engagement and requested a volunteer to attend the meeting should there be any questions asked
        - a. Phillip indicated that he would be there
- III. Jonelle Brom, Out of Home Care Manager, DCF – Updates
- a. Jonelle was not able to attend the meeting
- IV. Committee Member Updates
- a. No additional updates at this time
- V. Additional
- a. Next meeting September 18
    - i. BMCW will need to find a representative as Phillip will be at a Licensing Conference
  - b. 10/16 Meeting
    - i. Colleen requests that we see if we can find a better day for this meeting. Please submit possible days to Colleen.